

Minutes of DAAC Meeting

Attendance

DAAC members present were: Seren Derin, Chair; Joe Tringali, Vice-chair; Irene Barrelet, Clerk; and Jim MacRostie

Others present were Gerry Weiss, Select Board representative; and Nathaniel Malloy, DAAC staff liaison.

Absent: Dana Goddard.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Derin called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Disability Access Advisory Committee agreed to make a donation on behalf of Joan Rising to the Amherst Survival Center.

Mr. Weiss informed the committee that as of March 23, 2010, he will no longer serve as the Select Board's representative to the DAAC.

It has been brought to the attention of committee members that the ticket dispensers in the central parking garage on the UMass campus cannot be reached from a van, such that many people using HP parking spaces cannot enter the garage—the mechanical arm does not move if a ticket cannot be taken.

MINUTES

Minutes from the October 13, 2009 meeting were reviewed. No corrections were found. Mr. Tringali made a motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Barrelet seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to accept the October minutes as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Mill River Recreation Area

Mr. Malloy explained that he received a memorandum from the Town Manager asking that the Disability Access Advisory Committee discuss the addition of accessible curb cuts along the sidewalk on Montague Road (Route 63) at the entrance to Mill River Recreation Area. Currently, there are no curb cuts at this entrance even though crosswalks are provided. Montague Road is a state highway and according to Amherst's DPW, the area in question is within the right-of-way, and therefore outside Town jurisdiction.

Mr. Tringali asked if these curb cuts are part of the Town's Transition Plan, and if the remaining sidewalks that enter the Mill River Recreation Area are accessible. He noted that even if the sidewalk is made accessible, many of the amenities within the park—i.e. the pool—have barriers.

Mr. Weiss asked if the perimeter trail at the recreation area is accessible, even though it traverses unpaved areas. He recommended a committee site visit when the weather is better.

AAB Correspondence

Mr. Malloy explained that he received notification from the AAB regarding Pasta E Basta (24-26 Main Street) and 57 North Pleasant Street. Pasta E Basta has notified the AAB that they are working with an architect to update their first floor and reach compliance. The correspondence for 57 North Pleasant Street indicated that after a second site visit, the AAB has found numerous violations and has ordered the property owners to develop a plan to address these issues.

The Committee agreed that although it is costly to fix violations, it is important and a company's legal obligation to provide access to all people.

Committee Membership

The committee discussed its two vacancies and members agreed to encourage interested citizens to complete a Citizen Activity Form (CAF) either online or in the Town Manager's office at Town Hall.

Next Meeting Dates

The committee established meeting dates as follows:

- ~ Tuesday, February 9, 2010
- ~ Tuesday, March 9, 2010
- ~ Tuesday April 6, 2010

Other

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

Private Parking Lots

It was reported that vehicles are being routinely ticketed on private property.

Jones Library Parking

The Committee is waiting to schedule a site visit to the library.

Visitability

Mr. Tringali suggested the Town could incentivize visitability using a point system or tax relief, similar to encouraging affordable housing in the subdivision regulations. Incentives could be used when constructing or renovating single-family dwelling units and duplexes.

Mr. Weiss suggested the Disability Access Advisory Committee present this idea to the Planning Board to make them aware of the issue, and possibly start the process of amending the subdivision regulations.

Other

N/A

Next Meeting(s)

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday April 6, 2010 @ 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Nathaniel Malloy, staff liaison